

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00637 091822Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 091325Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4693

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL CAPE TOWN 0637

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, SF

SUBJECT: MOBUTU-EGLIN MEETING

REF: KINSHASA 4917

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU MAY BE REACTING TO SMALL ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN RAND DAILY MAIL JUNE 3. IN IT PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER COLIN EGLIN IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS NOT OPPOSED TO WHITE SOUTH AFRICA BUT A "A SYSTEM THEY SEE AS REJECTION OF BLACKS." EGLIN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MOBUTU HAD TOLD HIM PRERESQUISITE TO DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

2. LONGER ARTICLE, ALSO BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH EGLIN, APPEARED IN SAME DAY'S CAPE TIMES. IN IT EGLIN QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT HE HAD HELD "RELAXED DISCUSSIONS" WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU, BUT AS THESE WERE OFF THE RECORD, HE COULD ONLY GIVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE "FEELING IN ZAIRE." ARTICLE GENERALLY THE SAME AS THAT IN RAND DAILY MAIL, THOUGH IT ADDS EGLIN NOTED GREAT CONCERN IN INSHASA ABOUT ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS, AND SENSED STRONG ZAIRE BOND OF SYMPATHY WITH FNLA MOVEMENT OF HOLDEN ROBERTO.

3. COMMENT: IF MOBUTU'S UNDERSTANDING OF GROUND RULES FOR HIS CONVERSATION WITH EGLIN WAS THAT MEETING ITSELF WAS TO BE KEPT SECRET, THEN EGLIN OBVIOUSLY DESERVES TO BE TARGET OF PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00637 091822Z

IRE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE UNFORUTNATE IF MOBUTU'S ANGER CAUSED

BY EGLIN SEEMINGLY ATTRIBUTING SPECIFIC THOUGHTS TO HIM, AS
IN THE RAND DAILY MAIL ARTICLE, AS THIS MORE PROBABLY A RESULT
OF SLOPPY REPORTING THAN ANY INDISCRETION ON EGLIN'S PART.
EGLIN IS A CAUTIOUS, IF SOMETIMES LOQUACIOUS POLITICIAN, WHO WAS
PROBABLY CAREFUL TO MAKE THE SAME DISCLAIMER ABOUT HIS CON-
VERSATIONS WITH MOBUTU BEING OFF THE RECORD TO ALL REPORTERS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAMIBIA, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750200-0837
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750666/aaaachwc.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 KINSHASA 4917
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU-EGLIN MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, CG, SF, PROGRESSIVE PARTY, (MOBUTU, SESE SEKO), (EGLIN COLIN)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006